TL 5863

LONDON TO BRISTOL SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE FOR THE BRITISH COALITION FOR EAST TIMOR

OCTOBER 10-12 1995

Background information:

* Indonesia will have occupied East Timor for 20 years in December and since 1975 has caused the death of over 200,000 East Timorese -about a third of the population. PER HEAD OF THE POPULATION THIS IS THE LARGEST GENOCIDE SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

* In October 1975, shortly before the invasion of East Timor by Indonesia several Western journalists were executed by the Indonesian military. One of these was a camera man from Bristol.

Aims of ride:

To raise money for the British Coalition for East Timor which campaigns against the British Government's support of Indonesia which continues to illegally occupy East Timor.

*Britain is one of the largest suppliers of arms to Indonesia. In the past it has sold Hawk Aircraft to Indonesia, which eye-witnesses have seen used against the Timorese civilian population. Britain is due to send more Hawk Aircraft to Indonesia next year. Britain will also be exporting scorpion tanks to Indonesia.

*The British Government has tried to cover up the real cause of the death of British citizens killed by the Indonesians in October 1975:

- Families of the newsmen killed were led to believe that they were killed by mortar fire when in fact they were executed by the Indonesians to prevent news of the Indonesian invasion of East Timor from reaching the rest of the world.

- A Foreign Office official supposedly attended the funeral but the families of those murdered were not invited. In fact it is still unclear if and where the funeral took place.

Route:

The overall journey length is about 120 miles and will be done in three stages:

Stage 1: London to Reading (October 10)
Stage 2: Reading to Swindon/~~Marlborough~~ (October 11)
Stage 3: Swindon/~~Marlborough~~ to Bristol (October 12)

Further info:

If you would like to participate in part of the ride or sponsor the riders or help in any other way (e.g. provide accommodation or help organise an event en-route) please contact: HUBERT GIESCHEN/NICOLA ILES 0181-7619965